

# FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2009 at 7.15 pm in the June Rennie Room, The Pump House, Market Place, Exchange, Faringdon**

**PRESENT** Cllrs A V Hickmore (Chairman)  
Mrs M J Barker  
Mrs J Boulton  
Mr J C W Gillman  
Mr A Marsden  
Dr M L H Wise  
D/Cllr Mrs A Thomson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 6 members of public  
Deputy Town Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Keeble, N S O'Keeffe and D Price.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting: Tuesday, 5 May 2009**  
The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3. **Matters Arising**  
There were no matters arising.
4. **Public Question Time**  
No questions had been received.
5. **Public Speaking Time**  
*Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Fernham Road:* A local resident expressed his concern that although the Fernham Gate side of the SSSI was accessible by arrangement through residents' gardens, the Coxwell side of the pit was inaccessible although it was indicated in publicity literature from the Faringdon Fossil Trust that this part of the site would also be accessible. He asked what the current situation was regarding the transfer of the land to the Town Council. The Chairman confirmed that the Town Council solicitors had now been instructed to deal with the legal formalities of the transfer of the land with SSSI status to the Town Council. Another resident queried how long the transfer would take and was advised that this would depend on the time taken by Builders Ede's solicitors in providing the necessary details to the Town Council's solicitors.  
The Chairman also advised that the Town Clerk had been advised by the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) that administration of S106 agreements was the responsibility of the VWHDC and not Faringdon Town Council. The Town Clerk had therefore passed through the relevant queries to the VWHDC to look into. The Chairman stated that he would be liaising with the Town Clerk on this matter and would keep the resident updated on progress being made.

D/Cllr Mrs Thomson also advised that the problem regarding the dumping of builder's debris and containers in the area in the Great Coxwell Parish adjoining the pit was being progressed with the VWHDC.

**6. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7. Planning Applications were considered and decisions taken, as follows:-**

**GFA/13339/1**

Proposed first floor rear extension and roof extension with rear dormer windows

**1 Hampden Close, Faringdon**

For: Mr D Hatton

**NO OBJECTIONS**

**GFA/16464/5**

Erection of 11 affordable houses (5x2 bed & 6x3 bed) with parking and access road. (Land behind Winslow House) (Re-submission of withdrawn application GFA/16464/4)

**Land adjoining Coxwell House and Winslow House, Coxwell Road, Faringdon**

For: Cotswold Homes & South Oxfordshire HA

*(One local resident put forward his comments on the application and these were taken into consideration by the committee.)*

**OBJECT** on the following basis:

- (a) over-development – density of housing too high for the area at over 60 dwellings per hectare;
- (b) inadequate parking space;
- (c) as the size of these properties would indicate that they are presumably built for families, there is insufficient garden space and no access to allotments and/or play spaces;
- (d) this development, with its own separate entrance, would appear to go against VWHDC policy that affordable housing should be spread throughout developments and not grouped together.

It was AGREED that the following comments should also be forwarded to the VWHDC:

- It was noted that the plans from Trower Davies and the plan from Phoenix Design were inconsistent and the Town Council required clarification on these.
- Regarding the existing concrete boundary wall which runs along most of the houses that adjoin the plot, was this going to be knocked down as there was no mention of it in the plans?

- As this application was for only part of a larger development, if it did go ahead, it should be the subject of an S106 agreement which Town Council looked forward to discussing with the VWHDC.

It was AGREED that either Cllr Dr Wise or Cllr Mrs Boulton would attend the meeting of the VWHDC Development Control Committee when it considered this particular planning application. This was in line with Town Council policy that at the time Town Council objected to a planning application, a member would be delegated to speak on behalf of the Town Council at the relevant VWHDC meeting.

**8. For Information**

*Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England:* Advice had now been received from the Government Office for the South East that the Secretary of State had completed consideration of all the representations made on the Proposed Changes to the South East Plan, issued in July 2008. It was NOTED that the documents were available to view or download from the website of the Government Office for the South East [www.gos.gov.uk/gose](http://www.gos.gov.uk/gose)

**9. S106 Agreements**

*Bloor Homes Development, Park Road:* The Chairman advised that the initial payment of £30,000 had now been paid to the VWHDC within the time scale promised by Bloor Homes. VWHDC had advised the Town Clerk that S106 agreements put certain obligations on the District Council and there were conditions that needed to be met by the Town Council before the money could be released.

**10. Eastern Development Area – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Review of Swindon’s Local Development Scheme**

A draft letter for submission to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) in respect of the SPD was tabled by the Vice Chairman. Following discussion regarding the impact that the expansion of Swindon would have on Faringdon, it was agreed, in principle, that the letter should be submitted to SBC as Town Council’s comments on the SPD once the letter had been amended to take into account the comments made specifically with regard to public transport, employment in Faringdon, the increased volume of traffic on the A420, installation of a park and ride and the impact of water run-off from such a large development into a low lying area which could cause flooding. It was AGREED that the Chairman together with the Deputy Town Clerk would amend the letter accordingly.

A copy of a document submitted to the SBC by the Consortium of Western Vale Villages (WVV) in respect of the proposed expansion of Swindon into the Vale of White Horse District Council was tabled and NOTED.

**11. Work to Trees**

Advice from the VWHDC was received and NOTED in respect of the following works which were proposed to be carried out:

Pollard 1 Lime Tree

**Tracklands, 12 Gravel Walk, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7JW**

**12. Oxfordshire County Council – Primary Review**

Following a request made by Town Council to C/Cllr Mrs J Heathcoat to convene a meeting with officers from the LEA and the schools in Faringdon in order to discuss the future provision of places in light of the population growth in Faringdon, C/Cllr Mrs Heathcoat had responded that Oxfordshire County Council's primary school review would give schools every opportunity to put their cases forward and that all stakeholders would have the opportunity to feed into the review, including the Town Council.

In respect of the primary school review, it was NOTED that an invitation had been received by Town Council from OCC to attend a consultation meeting on 18 June 2009 and it was AGREED that the Chairman would attend this.

It was FURTHER AGREED that, in the meantime, contact would be made with each of the head teachers in the Faringdon Partnership to ascertain whether they would like the Town Council to facilitate a meeting with the LEA before the above consultation date or whether they would be attending the consultation and would prefer to wait until after that.